

IN THE CLAIMS

*The status of the claims as presently amended is as follows:*

1. *(Currently Amended)* A hermetic compressor comprising:
  - an electric motor unit;
  - a compressing unit driven by the electric motor unit; and
  - a hermetic container accommodating the electric motor unit and the compressing unit, wherein the compressing unit comprises:
    - a compressing room having a[[n]] compressing room opening;
    - a suction valve disposed at the compressing room opening of the compressing room;
- and
  - a suction muffler having:
    - a suction muffler body forming a sound-deadening space;
    - a first communicating path communicating directly with the suction valve and with the sound-deadening space; and
    - a second communicating path communicating with the hermetic container and with the sound-deadening space,
- wherein a[[n]] first path opening, which is situated in the sound-deadening space, of the first communicating path, and a[[n]] second path opening, which is situated in the sound-deadening space, of the second communicating path open in a substantially identical direction and in a horizontal direction,
  - wherein a wall of the suction muffler body has an integrally formed fixed sound-insulating wall forming an opposite vertical face confronting both of the first and second path openings of the first and second communication paths situated in the sound-deadening space, and the integrally formed fixed sound-insulating wall reinforcing a frame of the suction muffler body, and
  - wherein the sound-insulating wall and the wall of the suction muffler body form a blocked sealed space to reduce sound transmission.

2-3. *(Canceled)*

4. *(Previously Presented)* The hermetic compressor of claim 1, wherein the suction muffler is made from synthetic resin and formed of at least two components.

5. *(Currently Amended)* A hermetic compressor comprising:

an electric motor unit;  
a compressing unit driven by the electric motor unit; and  
a hermetic container accommodating the electric motor unit and the compressing unit,  
wherein the compressing unit comprises:  
a compressing room having a[[n]] compressing room opening;

a suction valve disposed at the compressing room opening-of-the-compressing-room;

and

a suction muffler having:  
a suction muffler body forming a sound-deadening space;  
a first communicating path communicating directly with the suction valve and with the  
sound-deadening space; and  
a second communicating path communicating with the hermetic container and with the  
sound-deadening space,

wherein a[[n]] first path opening, which is situated in the sound-deadening space, of the  
first communicating path, and a[[n]] second path opening, which is situated in the sound-  
deadening space, of the second communicating path open in a substantially identical direction  
and in a horizontal direction,

wherein a wall of the suction muffler body has an integrally formed fixed sound-insulating  
wall at a place at least confronting both of the first and second path openings situated in the  
sound-deadening space, and reinforcing the wall of the suction muffler body,

wherein the sound-insulating wall works as a guiding wall for guiding gas sucked from  
the second communication path to the first communication path smoothly,

wherein the first communication path is disposed above the second communication path,  
and

wherein the sound-insulating wall and the wall of the suction muffler body form a blocked  
sealed space to reduce sound transmission.

6. (*Cancelled*)

7. *(Previously Presented)* The hermetic compressor of claim 5, wherein:
  - the suction muffler is made from synthetic resin and formed of at least two components, and
  - the sound-insulating wall is disposed vertically with respect to an opening face of the suction muffler body.
8. *(New)* The hermetic compressor of claim 1, wherein pressure pulsations emanating from the compressing room propagate through the first communicating path and exit directly through the first path opening and collide with the sound-insulating wall.
9. *(New)* The hermetic compressor of claim 5, wherein pressure pulsations emanating from the compressing room propagate through the first communicating path and exit directly through the first path opening and collide with the sound-insulating wall.